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trating into the rank and file of our troops. Ideals release immense stores of hidden energy in men and the inspiration thereof is as necessary for victory as are guns and ammunition.

These are the things for which the camp library stands. It is a live institution; it does things quickly and thoroughly.

Through its branches and stations it reaches out to all the men in camp. By its use surplus time is turned into hope, into happiness and into opportunity. It is serving the cause of democracy and through it we are making a very large and a very definite contribution toward the winning and the ending of this war.

HOW THE CAMP LIBRARY REACHES EVERY MAN

By FREDERICK GOODELL, *New York Public Library (Camp Librarian, Camp Wheeler, Ga.)*

One of the librarians the other day in speaking of a camp said that camps were composed of all sorts of men. The way to reach all these men in the camps is something we have all been thinking about. Of course, we cannot do it but we do come quite near to doing it sometimes, I think.

Publicity, of course, is a very important thing in reaching them. We have a great many men in the camps who do not know about the library. In the southern camps particularly we have a great many men who have never heard of a public library. In Camp Wheeler we have 3,000 men who cannot read or write. They were quite a problem but we tackled that in fine style: we taught them how to read and write and then we gave them the books after they learned how to use them.

Another thing that is important is the personal relationship between the librarians and the military officers and the other organizations working in the camp. I think that the camp librarian should neglect almost any other duty he has to establish good relationships, become acquainted, to have people know him, know that he is in the camp, know that he represents the splendid organizations he does represent and make people realize that the library is taking a most important part in molding the opinion of the soldier. We all know when our young men went to these camps they did not have any idea why they were fighting; they are just be-

ginning to find out now why we are fighting, and the library has had a large part in telling them that; making them realize why it has been necessary to turn this great peaceful country into an armed camp. That is a most important work the library is doing in the camps, to place these ideas before all the men.

The camps, of course, differ in their physical aspect and their makeup. It is hard to tell us you should do a certain thing and should not do a certain other thing. One very interesting thing we had at Camp Wheeler when we received notice that the men in camp were to be changed. We were to have men from a new section of the country entirely. I thought it would be interesting to try to get those fellows before they came to the camp, so I tried in several ways, through the newspapers of the towns from which they were coming and through the chambers of commerce in the towns from which they were coming, to let them know that the American Library Association had a camp librarian with a splendid, active camp library back of him waiting for them, and when they did come to camp I noticed a difference right away. They felt that that camp library was something they would have to look up; it was a point of interest to them and something they went to in the first place. As soon as they came to the camp a great many mothers sent letters to me for their boys; they did not know to whom to send them and the

library was the first institution they had heard of. I found that that paid.

I found too that pushing the library through speaking in the Y. M. C. A. buildings and different publicity through the Y. M. C. A. buildings and branches is very valuable. The conditions are similar to those in a large library with extension branches; first, men come to the nearest unit. They find out there is a library in the camp and they want to know something about the central library. They will come from the extension branch or from the station to the central library.

The great thing the librarian must have in the camp is adaptability, and being adaptable to a camp is some job. We have perhaps today surrounding the library 20,000 men who are machine gunners. They are intensely interested in machine guns and books on mechanics and we have to

supply that need. Then between midnight and midnight those men all move out, the whole city is gone, and a new city has come. These men perhaps do not care a hang about machine guns; they are interested in horses. The library must start all over again.

The changing personnel of our camps is a problem that is facing us all right now and it is one in which we will need the help of the librarians back home to a great degree. We may call upon the libraries for a great many tools and books to help us out and I am sure the libraries will respond. One message I want to leave with you today is the gratitude of a camp librarian who has been isolated down in the south—the thanks for the ready response all the libraries of the country have given to even the slightest and apparently the most trivial request.

A DAY AT A CAMP LIBRARY

By JOHN A. LOWE, *Agent, Massachusetts Free Public Library Commission (Camp Librarian, Camp Devens, Mass.)*

Variety of work, long hours and no relief from activities marks the work of a camp librarian. A typical day at any one camp would serve to show the work of all of them:

At 5:30 in the morning a siren blows frightfully. Presently two men appear to clean the building. Great contrasts appear among these: we have had artists, lawyers, college professors, one circus man, foreigners who speak no English, ex-prize fighters, and negroes fresh from Florida.

Hardly is the cleaning process under way, when an officer rides up to the door on horseback, sending an orderly in to ask regarding some special technical books which were to be borrowed from the Boston Public Library for this officer's immediate use. Another officer rushes in to ask for "Rabbi Ben Ezra." That is easy, but to stop to interpret the poem line by line to him, at just that time, is another matter.

The morning mail carries stacks of it—and a second demand for "that report" from headquarters, and a questionnaire from

some psychologist, who wants to know "whether men are reading, what they are reading, and why they are reading."

The private detailed to drive the truck stands waiting for his orders. As soon as he is gone you get out the blank sheets for the report of statistics and begin to figure. But a telephone call comes for the librarian. It is from the commanding general, who desires an interview at division headquarters immediately regarding an overseas division library. Just starting out, you are called back to the telephone to find that the division intelligence officer demands the instant appearance of the librarian at his office. Afterward it proves to be a matter regarding the circulation of German propaganda about camp by conscientious objectors and others.

Back to the library you go from division headquarters, full of business, only to find a private waiting with a poem which he has written and about which he asks advice.

Lunch next, but you can take only ten minutes for this during which you eat very good food, and have good company